

United States Attorney Southern District of New York

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FORMER NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO MAKING FALSE RECORDS RELATING TO DRINKING WATER MONITORING

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that DIETER GREENFELD, 63, a former employee of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP"), pleaded guilty today before United States Magistrate Judge MARK D. FOX in federal court in White Plains, New York to a felony charge of making false entries in DEP records relating to monitoring of drinking water while he was a DEP employee.

In pleading guilty, GREENFELD admitted that on March 7, 2005, he made false entries in a DEP log book relating to monitoring of drinking water for turbidity, which is a measure of cloudiness. GREENFELD stated that on that day, without testing a water sample for turbidity, he entered false readings in a DEP log book. GREENFELD admitted that on multiple other occasions, he did not complete turbidity tests and entered false readings in the log book. GREENFELD also admitted that when questioned by federal agents he denied that such conduct had occurred on

occasions other than March 7, 2005.

The federal criminal charge to which GREENFELD pleaded quilty was contained in an Indictment filed in May, 2005. According to the Indictment, the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") required DEP to monitor water for turbidity at a number of locations, including a DEP water supply facility known as the Catskill Lower Effluent Chamber. according to the Indictment, EPA personnel periodically reviewed a log book maintained by DEP at the Catskill Lower Effluent Chamber ("the log book") which purported to reflect the results of DEP's turbidity monitoring at that facility, information relating to the calibration of certain turbidity monitoring equipment located there, and the initials of the DEP employee who performed the monitoring and the calibration. According to the Indictment, the log book purported to set forth both the results of turbidity monitoring performed by an instrument that took continuous turbidity readings and the results of the analysis of "grab samples," that is, samples taken by holding a container in a stream of running water. The Indictment alleges that DEP submitted periodic reports to EPA that purported to reflect the results of its turbidity monitoring in the Catskill Lower Effluent Chamber ("the turbidity reports"). The Indictment alleges that EPA utilized data provided by DEP about turbidity monitoring to ascertain whether DEP was in compliance with applicable regulations, and that failure to comply with those

regulations could have triggered a requirement to filter water flowing to New York City through the Catskill and Delaware aqueducts.

The Indictment alleged that GREENFELD was responsible for performing turbidity monitoring at certain times in the Catskill Lower Effluent Chamber and for recording the results of that monitoring in the log book. The Indictment charged that on four occasions during February and March, 2005, the last of which was March 7, 2005, DIETER GREENFELD, the defendant, entered the Catskill Lower Effluent Chamber and made entries in the turbidity log book that falsely purported to reflect that he had calibrated turbidity monitoring equipment and taken and analyzed grab samples of water flowing through the facility when, in fact, he had not. In court today, GREENFELD pleaded guilty to one Count of the Indictment, based on his conduct on March 7, 2005.

According to the Indictment, EPA has found that although turbidity itself has no health effects, turbidity could be harmful in other ways, including by interfering with disinfection and providing a medium for microbial growth. In addition, according to the Indictment, EPA has found that turbidity could indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms, including bacteria, viruses, and parasites, and that increased turbidity levels could contribute to the development of certain potentially harmful disinfection byproducts.

Sentencing is scheduled for November 3, 2005, before United

States District Judge STEPHEN C. ROBINSON in federal court in White Plains, New York. GREENFELD faces a maximum sentence of 5 years in prison.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the United States
Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigation
Division, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the New York
City Department of Investigation in connection with this
investigation. Mr. KELLEY said that the investigation is
continuing.

Assistant United States Attorney ANNE C. RYAN is in charge of the prosecution.

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